

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /064 W
-----121143Z 035001 /20

O R 121050Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5665
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, IS
SUBJECT: RABIN MAY STAY ON AS PRIME MINISTER

1. FOLLOWING AN EXPLANATION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL AHARON BARAK OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL OBSTACLES TO PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S RELINQUISHING OFFICE, RABIN HAS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO REMAIN AS HEAD OF THE CARETAKER GOVERNMENT. THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS OF HIS DECISION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT TODAY'S CABINET MEETING. IT IS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE CABINET'S APPROVAL WILL BE NECESSARY OR EVEN WHETHER RABIN'S DECISION IS FINAL. THE PICTURE REMAINS MURKY.

2. MEANWHILE, SHIMON PERES IS REPORTEDLY ANNOYED AT THIS APPARENT CHANGE IN RABIN'S INTENTIONS, BELIEVING THAT A WAY COULD HAVE BEEN FOUND FOR RABIN TO RELINQUISH HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES IF HE HAD SO WANTED. HE IS SAID TO FEEL THAT WITH RABIN REMAINING NOMINALLY IN
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CHARGE, HE (PERES) WILL BE HANDICAPPED IN BUILDING AN IMAGE OF LEADERSHIP. HE WOULD CONTINUE TO APPEAR OVERSHADOWED BY RABIN, WHEREAS IF PERES OF EVEN ALLON BECAME ACTING PRIME MINISTER (A NATURAL DEVELOPMENT FLOWING FROM HIS TITLE AS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER), PERES WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER ABLE TO ASSERT HIMSELF.

3. PERES DISPLAYED HIS NEWLY-BESTOWED LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY YESTERDAY AT A MEETING OF LABOR'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE CALLED TO CONSOLIDATE ITS KNESSET LIST. (THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO FINALIZE THE LIST ON APRIL 10 BUT INSTEAD HAD TO CHOOSE A REPLACEMENT FOR RABIN AT THAT MEETING.) OVERRULING DEMANDS FOR A SECRET VOTE, PERES RAMMED THROUGH THE LIST AS RECOMMENDED BY THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE. PERES, ALLON AND EBAN ARE THE FIRST THREE NAMES AND RABIN IS 17TH (WHICH WILL SLIP TO 20TH WITH THE MELDING OF MAPAM'S LIST WITH LABOR'S).
DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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